Approved For Release 2006/12/06 : CIA-RDP78B05171A000400030054-1

[redacted]

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MLT-3161-L-5920
22 April 1971

Officer-in-Charge
USA Communication Service Group
P. O. Box 72
NAS Moffett Field, California 94035

Subject: [redacted] 25X1

Gentlemen:

In reply to your letter and attachment of 9 April 1971 regarding the rejection of subject contract Item 1b, the MLT 1540-4 Light Table, [redacted] presents the following information for your review with respect to the paragraphs of said attachment: 25X1

1. With respect to the "lack of mensuration confidence" in the item, paragraph 3.5.1 of the MLT specification states "a precision mount shall be provided to place any of the following microstereoscopes systems in correct position for focus and comfortable viewing of film materials located on the two 15" x 20" glass viewing surfaces". There is no explicit or implicit requirement for a carriage and mount having mensuration capabilities. All MLT 1540 models conform to the requirements of paragraph 3.5.1 for all stereoscope systems specified.

1.a The subject contract describes Item 1b as "same as Item 1, except to include a positive means of restricting motion in the "X" direction in accordance with Contractor's Proposal A-1611, dated 25 June 1970, and A-1611A, dated 14 July 1970, which are incorporated by reference and made a part hereof." Item 1b conforms to this description. There are no quantitative requirements expressed or incorporated by reference to other manufacturer's products as to the amount of movement allowed in the microscope carriage when movement is restricted.

As explained prior to delivery of Item 1b, the operation and functioning of this model is similar to that of Item 1, which has been accepted as satisfactory. As mutually agreed at the time of first article acceptance, each MLT 1540 system is being adjusted for minimum movement of the microscope carriage consistent with other requirements, e.g., four-pound minimum force for bridge movement.

1.b & 1.c There are no quantitative requirements in this area. Operation of Item 1b is consistent with already accepted units, and conforms to the specification. The characteristics described can be overcome with minimal operator training and with an attempt to utilize all features of the system, i.e., locking and utilizing motorized drive for final positioning on target. With reference to paragraph 1.d, it would appear that this type of operation has been attempted.

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1.d Paragraph 3.5.1.2 of the MLT 1540 specification states "a motorized drive capable of driving the mount at transverse speeds within the range of 0 to 0.5 -+ .05 inches per second shall be provided as an optional feature". No further quantitative requirements are stated either directly or by indirect reference to the operation of other manufacturer's equipment. The motorized drive provided on Item 1b conforms to contract requirements, is identical to that provided on the already accepted Item 1 units, and provides a smooth low speed operation consistent with the weight of the instrument mounted in the microscope carriage.

1.e With reference to the definition of rigidity of the microstereoscope mount, specification paragraph 3.5.1.3 states that "visible vibrations induced by the carriage and mount will be minimized". It does not state that there will be no vibrations induced by the operator directly into the instrument being used. Further, the microstereoscope mount supplied on the MLT 1540-4 is identical to that provided on the MLT 1540-2 with the exception of the added toggle switch for control of the bridge.

2. With reference to specification paragraph 3.5.1 (4), the potential of accidental damage resulting from contact of the optical instruments with the table structure was resolved between [redacted] and Government project personnel by mutual agreement that units would be provided with a low profile fuse holder and mode switch knob different from those provided on the first unit of MLT 1540-2. The fuse holder and the knob were both approved by the Project Monitor prior to their incorporation in the systems. As sufficient quantities of the knob become available, those units which do not have the low profile mode switch will be changed in the field by [redacted] personnel, as agreed with the Project Monitor. 25X1 25X1 25X1

3. These switches were changed at the request of Government personnel upon inspection of the first unit due to the potential hazard to the operator's knee; the first units were modified to reduce this hazard. The present switches are dissimilar and, further, their location readily identifies their function.

4. The comment regarding quality control is unwarranted and lacks specific justification. As with any new, sophisticated equipment developed in a short time frame, initial production problems will occur. [redacted] has a continuing program of quality control and equipment failure reporting from the field. All reported items of equipment deficiencies and/or malfunctions caused by production methods and/or design are thoroughly investigated and corrective measures taken as required. 25X1

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5. The 70mm film guides of the MLT 1540-4 are identical to those of the MLT 1540-2. The operation of these guides was thoroughly tested, and it is believed that the film damage problem stated is due to misuse of the guides.

Based upon the above, it is our position that Item 1b cannot be rejected as being non-conforming to the requirements of the contract. We understand that an operational problem may exist relative to the mensuration capabilities of the microscope carriage and mount, and if we are provided with quantitative requirements, we will be pleased to propose an adequate solution.

We desire to discuss this matter further with you at your earliest convenience in order to resolve the situation in a timely manner. If further information regarding this transmittal is required, do not hesitate to contact any of our company officers [redacted] 25X1 the MLT 1540 Program Manager, or the undersigned.

Very truly yours

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Supervisor, Contract Administration

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